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WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR
1963

WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1963 — 1964

WALLINGFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

MR. A. C. LESTER, The Triangle, Wantage Road, Wallingford.

DR. O. C. WILKINSON, Bezants, Winterbrook, Wallingford.

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. A. L. CONWAY, 8/10 Wallingford Street, Wantage.

MR. J. K. SMITH, Orleans, Denchworth Road, Wantage.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MRS. E. M. COLLIER (*Chairman*), Collier's Cottage, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell.

MR. J. H. GALLO, 36 High Street, Didcot.

MR. L. G. HITCHCOCK, 10 Edinburgh Drive, Didcot.

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. D. B. A. BEATTIE (*Vice-Chairman*), Brookside, Westbrook Street, Blewbury.

MR. E. C. GOLBY, Cheap Street, Compton.

MR. G. CORRIE MILLS, Beedon Hill, Beedon.

BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MR. J. L. SALE, C.I.E., Priors Hold, Wantage.

DR. A. G. WALTER, Middle Wharf, Thames Street, Wallingford.

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

G. V. SPOONER, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

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WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

Senior Public Health Inspector

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Additional Public Health Inspector

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MUNICIPAL OFFICES,
WALLINGFORD.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WALLINGFORD AND WANTAGE DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1963. It includes the information required by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/64.

The population figure for the combined districts was 300 more than that for 1962, an increase of 0.62%. This figure does not, however, give a true picture of the population trend, as it is greatly affected by the reduction by 440 in the population of the Wallingford Rural District, brought about by the closing down of the Didcot Ordnance Depot, the number of W.D. personnel having been reduced from 702 in 1962 to 16 in 1963. If we consider the other three districts only, we find that their total population has risen by 740, an increase of 2.6%. As there were 407 more births than there were deaths in the four combined districts, emigration must have outpaced immigration by 107, but again leaving aside the figures for the Wallingford Rural District, we find there were 231 more births than deaths in the other three districts, so that the population rise within them was less than one third due to this factor and over two thirds due to immigration. In the Borough of Wallingford there were, in fact, 5 more deaths than births (due to the presence in the Borough of a large amount of residential accommodation for the aged) so that immigration accounted for the whole of its population increase of 40.

The 1,008 live births during the year were 13 fewer than in 1962 (a 1.3% reduction). The fall was due to smaller numbers of births in Wallingford Borough (14 less) and Wantage Urban District (22 less) which more than outweighed the increased numbers in the two rural districts (13 in Wallingford and 10 in Wantage). Male live births were again considerably more than female (5.2%). The provisional corrected birth rate for England and Wales was 18.0 per 1,000 population, so that all four districts had higher than national corrected birth rates.

The stillbirth rate for 1963 was 22.3 per 1,000 total births, the highest since 1957 when it was 22.5 per 1,000 total births, and considerably above the provisional rate for England and Wales (17.3 per 1,000 total births). There were in fact 23 stillbirths, 12 of them in the Wallingford Rural District. All but three took place in hospital. The causes were as follows:- ante partum

haemorrhage 5, congenital abnormality 5, rhesus incompatibility 4, toxæmia of mother 3, difficult labour 3, prematurity 1, foetal asphyxia (double knot in cord) 1, cause not known 1. There is nothing especially significant in these and no doubt the high figure was due simply to chance, a factor which is always more important when dealing with comparatively small numbers. It is to be hoped it will be considerably lower next year.

There were 53 illegitimate births in the combined districts, an increase of 5 over the 1962 figure, representing 5.3% of all live births. In England and Wales 6.9% of all live births were illegitimate.

Total deaths in 1963 were 88 more than in 1962, 601 compared with 513. As usual, Wallingford Borough had a very high crude death rate, because of the residential accommodation for the aged already referred to. The corrected death rate for the Borough, a figure which takes into account this factor as well as the age and sex distribution of the population, was however below the provisional figure for England and Wales, as were those for the other three districts. Deaths of infants under 1 year numbered 26, three less than last year, giving an infant mortality rate of 25.8 per 1,000 live births. Although an improvement, this figure was still well above the national rate of 20.9 per 1,000 live births. 16 of these 26 infants were under 1 week old and the other 10 were over 4 weeks old.

An examination of the causes of death discloses that diseases of the heart and circulation accounted altogether for 51.9% of all deaths, 312 in all, a slight reduction in percentage although the actual total is much higher than that for 1962. Coronary disease was responsible for 92 of these 312 deaths. Deaths from the various forms of cancer, including leukaemia, amounted to 97, 21 of them being from cancer of the lung. How many of these latter would be alive to-day if they had not been heavy cigarette smokers? Is lung cancer perhaps, the "full reward" of smoking offered by one cigarette advertiser? Or does this curious phrase refer rather to the much longer lasting torment of chronic bronchitis? Congenital malformations caused 11 deaths compared with 7 in 1962. This is a rather high figure, especially if it is related specifically to Wallingford Borough and Wallingford Rural District where 9 of the deaths occurred. It represents a rate of 18.3 per 1,000 total deaths, compared with a national rate of 9.1 per 1,000 total deaths, from this cause. The significance of these figures is somewhat modified by reference to the ages at which the deaths occurred: 7 only were infants under 1 years of age (1 in Wallingford Borough, 4 in Wallingford Rural District and 2 in Wantage Rural District), 5 having heart abnormalities and 2 having multiple abnormalities; of the remaining 4, 1 aged 7 years died of cerebral compression following congenital cranial synostosis, and the other 3 died as a result of congenital heart disease at the ages of 13, 19 and 60 years.

Turning now to the notifications of infectious diseases, it is at once apparent that the high total, compared with 1962, was due mainly to the 495 cases of measles, which were expected in view of the normal epidemiology of this disease. The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis was 19, a rather surprising rise from the 1962 figure and against the national trend. The cases were evenly distributed over the four districts. In addition there was a death from a massive tuberculous haemoptysis occurring in a woman of 45 who had never sought her doctor's advice. Thus the actual number of new cases of tuberculosis during the year was 20. There were again no cases of diphtheria, enteric, poliomyelitis or smallpox. Notifications of whooping cough, although twice as many as in 1962, were still remarkably few.

In my last report I drew attention to the increased number of notifications of Sonnei dysentery and in 1963 the number again rose to 30. There were also 9 cases of food poisoning notified as against 3 in 1962. These figures give no real indication of the actual infection rate which is very much higher than they suggest. For example, there was a food poisoning incident at an infant school in Wantage, affecting 60 children, none of them severely. All had eaten a school dinner but the only item of the meal which had been consumed by all was the meat, beefburgers. The meal had been prepared by the Central Kitchen in Wantage, which supplies about 40 other schools and there had been no outbreaks at any of these. All specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, from those affected, from kitchen staff, the specimen meal, water, milk, etc., were entirely negative, while no important faults were found in the kitchen or at the school. In the absence of any significant findings, none of these cases was notified yet it seems likely that the beefburgers, the only item which had been eaten by all those affected, were the vehicle of infection. This is typical of many such incidents in other parts of the country.

Quite apart from incidents such as this, vomiting and diarrhoea are very common nowadays, either as isolated cases or in almost epidemic form from time to time, in most communities in the country. Specimens taken from the victims are nearly always negative on bacteriological examination and it is possible that these mild illnesses are frequently of viral origin. The mode of spread is uncertain and any attempt to exercise control therefore empirical. One thing which is certain, however, is that standards of hygiene generally leave much to be desired. Personal hygiene varies from neurotic perfectionism to complete disregard and is, of course, a matter for education and example. It is no use urging the highest standards upon those unfortunate enough to be living still in sub-standard accommodation, but everyone must be encouraged to aim as high as possible. Amongst those who handle other people's food, the highest standards only should be accepted, not only by the officers of the local authority but also by the general public.

Much handling of food takes place, of course, behind the scenes but it is a constant source of amazement what will be accepted unquestioningly by many customers in shops and cafes. It is quite impossible for inspectors to maintain a constant vigil at all food premises so that, to a large extent, the customers themselves will dictate the standards of hygiene which are acceptable.

There was a welcome increase in the number of infants and young children immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough (932 and 925 respectively compared with 728 and 581 in 1962). The tables show, however, that a high percentage of children are not immunised against these diseases until after their first birthday. With the present low rates of infection this may not seem important but the fact remains that the natural immunity present at birth in most babies diminishes rapidly and has disappeared after a few months, when the illnesses are particularly dangerous. Immunisation should be started at about 2 months of age. The number of booster injections against both diseases also showed improvement but still fell far short of the primary injections. Ideally all children should receive a booster injection against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus at 18 months and against diphtheria and tetanus at school entry. Much obviously remains to be done in this field. Figures for immunisation against tetanus are not shown, but they would be comparable to those for diphtheria and whooping cough as the three are usually given together in the form of triple antigen.

As was expected, smallpox vaccinations were down from the total of 7,224 in 1962 to little more than their 1961 figure (783 in 1963 compared with 651 in 1961). This was because there were no outbreaks of smallpox in the country in 1963. The age of primary vaccination shows considerable change since 1961, more than half being done at over 1 year of age. This is in accordance with the finding that the complications of smallpox vaccination are least common between 1 and 2 years of age so that mothers are now advised to postpone primary vaccination until then.

It is not possible to make any reasonable comparison between the numbers immunised against poliomyelitis in 1963 and in previous years. Oral vaccine gradually replaced Salk vaccine during the year, and my impression is that it is being more widely asked for at the infant welfare clinics, where most primary courses are now given, than courses of injections used to be. With its widespread use, the indications are that poliomyelitis is now well controlled but the non-immune may still suffer the same disastrous consequences of infection and it is difficult to understand how any mother can neglect to protect her child by this simple, safe and absolutely painless procedure.

Figures for B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis are given this year for the first time. Vaccination is offered to all 13 year

old school children and is accepted by the great majority of parents. A skin test is first done to discover whether vaccination is necessary: the positive reactors to the test are not vaccinated but are offered a chest x-ray to exclude the possibility of active disease; the negative reactors are vaccinated with B.C.G. Six to ten weeks after vaccination, a second skin test is done to see whether it has been effective. In practice, about 98% of vaccinations produce a conversion (negative skin test to positive skin test) although this is not evident from the figures given because some convert after the second skin test while others are absent from this session.

Finally I wish to record my thanks to the Joint Public Health Committee and the Public Health Committees of the four district councils whose members have at all times been most considerate and helpful; to the County Medical Officer of Health and other colleagues; to the general practitioners for their interest and co-operation; to the staff of the Public Health Laboratory; to the public health inspectors of the constituent authorities for their loyalty and support and to my secretary for her unremitting efforts to decipher my deplorable handwriting.

I have the honour to be,

Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. R. HOWELL.

POPULATION

District	Area in Acres	Estimated Mid-Year Population		Difference
		1962	1963	
Wallingford Borough	760	5,100	5,140	+ 40
Wantage Urban	2,797	6,350	6,520	+ 170
Wallingford Rural	21,790	19,770	19,330	- 440
Wantage Rural	74,181	17,050	17,580	+ 530
Combined Districts	99,528	48,270	48,570	+ 300

LIVE BIRTHS

District	No. of live births in 1963			Birth rate per 1,000 population	Corrected Birth rate per 1,000 population	
	Male	Female	Total		1963	1962
Wallingford Borough	57	47	104	20.2	19.0	20.8
Wantage Urban	50	59	109	16.7	17.4	18.8
Wallingford Rural	223	193	416	21.5	22.4	21.0
Wantage Rural	200	179	379	21.6	20.9	21.2
Combined Districts	530	478	1,008	20.8		
England and Wales*					18.2	18.0

STILL BIRTHS

District	No. of stillbirths		Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Wallingford Borough	2	4		
Wantage Urban	1	2		
Wallingford Rural	3	12		
Wantage Rural	6	5		
Combined Districts	12	23	11.6	22.3
England and Wales*			18.1	17.2

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS

District	Number of illegitimate births per annum					
	1938	1945	1953	1961	1962	1963
Wallingford Borough	3	5	1	2	4	3
Wantage Urban	3	17	—	6	8	5
Wallingford Rural	11	26	16	15	19	28
Wantage Rural	7	30	14	11	17	17
Combined Districts	24	78	31	34	48	53

TOTAL DEATHS

District	No. of Deaths			Crude death rate		Corrected death	
	1963			per 1,000		rate per 1,000	
	Male	Female	Total	1962	1963	1962	1963
Wallingford Borough	43	66	109	16.7	21.2	8.0	11.1
Wantage Urban	35	42	77	10.2	11.8	8.1	9.1
Wallingford Rural	111	129	240	11.5	12.4	10.0	10.2
Wantage Rural	98	77	175	7.9	10.0	8.5	11.8
Combined Districts	287	314	601	10.6	12.4		
England and Wales*						11.9	12.2

INFANT MORTALITY

District	No. of infant deaths		Infant mortality rate	
	under 12 months of age		per 1,000 live births	
	1962	1963	1962	1963
Wallingford Borough	4	2		
Wantage Urban	4	1		
Wallingford Rural	18	17		
Wantage Rural	3	6		
Combined Districts	29	26	28.4	25.8
England and Wales*			21.6	21.1

* Figures for England and Wales for 1963 are provisional.

CAUSES OF DEATH — 1963

	Wallingford Borough M. F. Total	Wantage U.D. M. F. Total	Wallingford R.D. M. F. Total	Wantage R.D. M. F. Total	Combined Districts 1963 1962
Tuberculosis, respiratory	— — —	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	1 3
Tuberculosis, other	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Syphilitic disease	— — —	— — —	2 1 3	— 1 1	4 2
Diphtheria	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Whooping cough	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Meningococcal infections	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Acute Poliomyelitis	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Measles	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— —
Other infective and parasitic diseases	— 1 1	— — —	— — —	— — —	1 1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1 — 1	— 1 1	8 — 8	6 2 8	18 11
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4 — 4	3 1 4	4 1 5	8 — 8	21 15
Malignant neoplasm, breast	— 3 3	— 1 1	— 3 3	— 2 2	9 7
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	— 3 3	— 1 1	— 3 3	— — —	7 1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3 1 4	3 5 8	11 4 15	6 4 10	37 41
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 1 2	— — —	— 1 1	2 — 2	5 2
Diabetes	— — —	— — —	— 1 1	— — —	1 1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	8 17 25	6 8 14	7 17 24	11 17 28	91 86

Coronary disease, angina	4	2	6	10	3	13	19	16	35	14	12	26	80	92
Hypertension with heart disease	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	2	4	2	3	5	11	9
Other heart disease	4	9	13	3	9	12	14	48	62	7	10	17	104	73
Other circulatory disease	2	2	4	2	1	3	4	4	8	4	7	11	26	13
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	1	1	2	5	2
Pneumonia	4	8	12	1	—	1	7	6	13	9	5	14	40	40
Bronchitis	3	1	4	4	—	4	3	3	6	9	2	11	25	24
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	3
Ulcers of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	2	3	3
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	2	—	2	5	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	2	3	—	—	—	5	1	6	1	1	2	11	7
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	14	18	—	12	12	15	11	26	7	5	12	68	49
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	4	7
All other accidents	3	1	4	1	—	1	4	6	10	3	—	3	18	11
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	2	3	5
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Total	43	66	109	35	42	77	111	129	240	98	77	175	601	513

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Disease	Wfd. Boro	Wantage U.D.	Wfd. R.D.	Wantage R.D.	Total 1963	Total 1962
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	10	18	2	30	22
Encephalitis (Acute)	—	—	—	1	1	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	1	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	5	4	9	3
Malaria B.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	114	34	181	166	495	120
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	1	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	—	—	2	1	3	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	—	5	—	6	11	12
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	3	3	7	6	19	10
Tuberculosis (Other forms)	—	1	2	—	3	5
Whooping Cough	—	4	2	3	9	4
Total	117	59	217	191	584	181

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1963

	Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
Wallingford Borough					
Primary ...	65	23	—	—	88
Booster ...	—	4	24	—	28
Wallingford Rural					
Primary ...	179	129	1	—	309
Booster ...	—	38	104	—	142
Wantage Urban					
Primary ...	61	40	1	—	102
Booster ...	—	11	27	—	38
Wantage Rural					
Primary ...	106	61	1	—	168
Booster ...	—	18	39	—	57
Combined Districts	411	324	197	—	932

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION 1963

		Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
<hr/>						
Wallingford Borough						
Primary	...	43	62	—	—	105
Booster	...	—	—	1	—	1
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	...	115	170	—	—	285
Booster	...	—	38	77	—	115
Wantage Urban						
Primary	...	52	110	1	—	163
Booster	...	—	12	28	—	40
Wantage Rural						
Primary	...	103	98	2	—	203
Booster	...	—	12	28	—	40
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Combined Districts		313	502	137	—	952
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SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1963

		Under 1 year	1-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	Total
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Wallingford Borough						
Primary	...	59	109	83	6	257
Re-vacc.	...	—	17	3	2	22
Wallingford Rural						
Primary	...	116	20	2	—	138
Re-vacc.	...	—	1	32	42	75
Wantage Urban						
Primary	...	24	8	32	16	80
Re-vacc.	...	—	7	14	23	44
Wantage Rural						
Primary	...	65	23	15	6	109
Re-vacc.	...	—	2	24	32	58
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Combined Districts		264	187	205	127	783
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IMMUNISATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS 1963

	Primary Immunisation				Re-inforcing doses			
	Born in the years 1959-1963		Born prior to 1959		Born in the years 1958-1961		All ages	
	3 Oral	2 Salk	3 Oral	2 Salk	4th dose Oral	4th inj Salk	3rd Salk	2 Oral after 2 Salk
Wallingford Borough	114	—	13	—	95	7	—	30
Wallingford Rural	269	78	56	3	278	6	69	143
Wantage Urban	132	1	22	—	148	—	2	77
Wantage Rural	237	20	49	2	262	16	46	132
Combined Districts	752	99	140	5	783	29	117	382

B.C.G. VACCINATION

School	Number positive at 1st skin test			Number vaccinated			Number of conversions		
	1961	1962	1963	1961	1962	1963	1961	1962	1963
Wallingford Grammar	5	6	6	58	38	40	53	30	36
Blackstone County Sec.	11	18	10	95	94	100	75	83	79
King Alfred's Grammar	3	4	8	53	37	52	50	35	48
Icknield County Sec.	8	11	5	114	108	117	97	92	104
Didcot Girls' Grammar	8	1	10	90	54	46	73	48	40
St. Birinus County Sec.	9	12	8	83	65	81	62	54	55
St. Frideswide's Cnty. Sec.	10	7	12	87	82	69	72	64	58
Cranford House P.N.E.U.	3	4	3	23	12	16	21	10	15
Total	57	63	62	603	490	521	503	416	435

BOROUGH OF WALLINGFORD

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The whole of the dwelling houses in the Borough are supplied with water from main piped supplies.

Seventeen samples of chlorinated water in distribution were taken for bacteriological examination. All samples were satisfactory.

The fluoride content of the water supplied from the Wallingford boreholes is 0.15 parts per million. The supply is supplemented by water from outside the Borough, the fluoride content of which is less than 0.10 parts per million.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Sewage from the whole of the Borough is pumped for treatment to the Wallingford Rural District Council's disposal works at Cholsey and this arrangement has continued to work satisfactorily. A small extension of the sewerage system was made to serve a new development of 32 houses.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties in the Borough has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year and the Council has continued to use the Wallingford Rural District Council's tip for disposal.

RODENT CONTROL

Summary of work carried out.

	<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Dwelling Houses	48	32
Business Premises	46	22
Local Authority Premises	43	20
Agricultural Premises	1	—
Sewers	2	1
	—	—
	140	75
	—	—

Test Baiting of Sewers for Rats

A 10% sewer test was carried out in December and all sewers were clear.

MILK SUPPLIES

One dairy is registered for the retail sale of milk.

Thirty-five samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination and all samples passed the appropriate tests.

ICE CREAM

Nineteen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. No ice cream is manufactured in the Borough.

Nine samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Five were placed in Grade I and four in Grade II.

FOOD PREMISES

TYPE OF BUSINESS

(a)	Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b)	Grocers	...	...	...	...	...	14
(c)	Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
(d)	Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	2
						(including one under (c))	
(e)	Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	7
(f)	Cafes	...	...	...	...	...	8
(g)	Hotels catering for non-residents					...	1
(h)	Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	4

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

(a)	Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	19
(b)	Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	...	8

INSPECTION OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES

Eighteen inspections were carried out.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

All fresh meat condemned as unfit for human consumption is sprayed with liquid acid green and destroyed. All condemned tinned food is disposed of by the Local Authority with their refuse.

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS

All premises selling ice cream in the Borough comply with the Regulations.

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the Borough. Both were inspected and their condition was satisfactory.

HOUSING AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

No houses were erected by the Borough Council during the year.

Twenty houses were erected by private enterprises.

Three individual houses were represented as unfit for human habitation.

The Council operate a small camping and caravan site at their Riverside Park for holiday purposes only, the maximum stay permitted being fourteen days.

EARWIGS

There was a repetition of earwig infestation on housing estates on the edge of the town adjoining agricultural land.

The gardens and the boundary with the agricultural land were treated with Gammexane and this proved to be effective.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following quantities of unsound food were examined and voluntarily surrendered:

Tinned Fruit and Vegetables	21 tins
Tinned Meat	28 tins
Chicken	85 lbs.

MEAT INSPECTION

Slaughtering is carried out at one slaughterhouse in the Borough and the condition of the premises has been completely satisfactory.

The following tables give details of carcasses and offal inspected:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	245	26	85	1,544	400
Number Inspected	245	26	85	1,544	400
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	7	3	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	18	6	—	55	39
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	7.3	23.1	8.2	3.8	11.0
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	14
Percentage of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	3.5
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

BATHING PLACE

The Borough Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool and paddling pool at the Riverside Park near Wallingford Bridge.

The recirculation and purification plant has continued to function satisfactorily.

Eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination from the swimming pool and plant during the season. Four samples were taken from a school swimming pool. One from each of these was unsatisfactory but subsequent samples were satisfactory.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	30	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authorities	25	29	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	50	59	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective — 1 (Remedied).

WANTAGE URBAN DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLIES

The supply of water for domestic and trade purposes during the year has proved adequate to meet the demand. Future development schemes in the area may be affected however unless action is taken by the Statutory Water Undertakers to augment the supply of water to the district.

New water mains have been laid at Ormond Road to afford a supply to 35 houses at the Maryfield Housing Estate and an extension to the mains has taken place at Charlton Village to cater for the 2nd Stage development of Charlton Heights Housing Estate.

Six samples of water were obtained for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported satisfactory. The fluoride content in the mains supply is reported as 0.1 parts per million.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The construction of sewers during the year has again been confined to new separate foul and surface water sewers for housing estate development.

Bradfield Farm Sewage Disposal Works is greatly overloaded and difficulty is experienced both in the drying and in the disposal of sludge from these works.

Consultations are taking place with the Wantage Rural District Council on proposals for large scale extensions to the Bradfield Farm Sewage Works and the construction of a new trunk sewer from Wantage. These extensions are necessary to deal with the increased volume of sewage from Wantage and Grove, caused by the rapid increase in housing development, and also to treat at Bradfield Farm the effluent from several Parishes in the Rural District.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic and Trade Refuse has been collected weekly from all properties in the district.

The tip at "S" Hill has been worked satisfactorily and will provide tipping space for a few more years.

RODENT CONTROL

Surveys of 61 premises have been carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 15 of them were as a result of notification of infestation.

A further 209 premises were examined for rodent infestation during inspections for other purposes.

26 minor infestations were found.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Haven Vale Caravan Site, Grove Street, is licensed under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 as a site for 27 dwellings. An adequate sanitary and ablution block is provided which is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

CEMETERY

It has not yet been found necessary to bring into use land purchased for burial purposes to the south of the existing cemetery at Chain Hill, part of which has been developed with access road and footpath, etc.

HOUSING

	1962	1963
Number of permanent houses erected	43	114
Number of permanent houses erected by the Local Authority	—	6
Number of permanent houses erected by private enterprise	43	108
Number of temporary houses erected	—	—
Number of families on housing list	207	251

PUBLIC BATHS

The Urban District Council own and maintain an open air swimming pool. No filtration or purification plant is installed, the pool being emptied, cleansed and refilled weekly from the public mains.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES

Disinfection has been carried out at two premises in the district during the year.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 25 licensed premises in the district as follows:

Hotels and Public Houses	...	17
Off Licences	... ..	7
Licensed Restaurants	... ..	1

18 premises have been inspected involving 31 visits.

Alteration to the Sanitary accommodation has been carried out at one of these premises and, in general, the accommodation is maintained in a satisfactory condition.

SHOPS ACT

Number of shops in the district	101
Number of shops inspected	... 59
Number of inspections	... 106

FOOD AND CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 48 food premises in the district as follows:

Butchers	...	...	...	7
Wet Fish Shops	...	...	...	1
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	2
Grocers and General Stores	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers	...	...	...	3
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	2
Sweet shops	...	...	...	5
Hotels	...	...	...	6
Restaurants	...	...	...	3

Thirty-eight premises have been visited with a total of 74 visits. The standard of cleanliness in food premises is generally satisfactory. As a result of informal action 2 shops were brought to the standard of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

ICE CREAM

Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of Ice Cream under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955. All licensed premises have been inspected during the year, the total number of visits being 74. The premises were found to be satisfactory in respect of the storage and sale of ice cream.

Eleven samples of fruit lollies, 3 samples of ice-cream and 37 samples of soft ice cream were obtained for bacteriological examination, with the following results:

Fruit lollies	—	Satisfactory
Ice Cream	—	2 placed Prov. Grade I and 1 placed Prov. Grade 4
Soft Ice Cream	—	15 placed Prov. Grade I 13 in Prov. Grade II 7 in Prov. Grade III and 2 in Prov. Grade IV

Thirty of these latter were taken jointly with the Wantage R.D.C. from a depot of mobile ice cream vendors. Early samples were, in the main, unsatisfactory but later ones, taken after consultation with the management had resulted in more hygienic handling methods, were of a generally satisfactory standard.

MILK SUPPLIES

There are two retailers of milk in the district each of whom holds licences to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk and there are also five shops in the district from which milk is sold in prepacked containers.

Two samples of school milk were obtained for examination both of which satisfied the Phosphatase test; one satisfied and one failed the Methylene Blue test.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES & MEAT & FOOD REGULATIONS

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

The following items were found, on inspection at premises other than slaughterhouses, to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered:

CANNED FOODS

Pressed Pork	6 tins	36 lbs.
Pressed Ham	4 tins	16 lbs.
Corned Beef	2 tins	12 lbs.
Chopped Pork	2 tins	8 lbs.

FRESH FOOD

Pigs Liver	—	35 lbs.
Mutton	—	51 lbs.

Unsound meat is destroyed. Other foods are buried or destroyed under Council supervision.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR DURING 1962

		<i>No. of properties or sites visited</i>	<i>Total No. of visits made</i>
Water Sampling	...	6	8
Sewage Disposal	...	1	21
Refuse Tip	...	1	44
Moveable Dwellings	...	1	18
Public Baths	...	1	26
Licensed Premises	...	18	31
Shops	...	59	106
Food Shops	...	38	74
Ice Cream Shops	...	24	74
Unfit Food	...	8	12
Milk Shops	...	4	4
General House Inspection	...	123	204
Disinfestation of Premises	...	2	4
Drainage Inspection	...	56	83
Rodent Control	...	76	362
Number of different premises inspected			420
Number of visits made			1057
Number of complaints received			57
Number of defects or nuisances discovered			74
Number of nuisances abated			68
Number of Notices: Formal			Nil
Informal			74

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	20	13	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	25	18	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	14	3	—
Total	50	45	6	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Sanitary conveniences insufficient — 2 (Remedied).

Sanitary conveniences unsuitable or defective — 4 (Remedied):
1 referred by H.M. Inspector.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — Nil.

WALLINGFORD RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the area continued to be furnished by the Thames Valley Water Board from the same sources as in the previous year, i.e. Aston Tirrold, Cholsey, South Moreton and West Hagbourne. Additional water is obtained as required from sources outside the R.D.C. area, at Blewbury and Cleeve, and at times from the War Department works at Hagbourne.

Water samples as detailed below were collected during the year:

1. WORKS

		<i>Raw Water</i>	<i>Final Water</i>
Aston Tirrold	...	20	20
Cholsey	...	17	17
South Moreton	...	31	19
West Hagbourne	...	26	18

2. STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

Aston Tirrold Reservoir	2
Hagbourne Reservoir ...	2
Tap and Hydrant samples	10

In all, 182 samples were examined from the area. Of the 94 raw water samples, 14 showed contamination with organisms of the coliform group. Of the 88 samples of final, stored and distributed water, 5 showed similar contamination.

In general, therefore, the water supply can be considered to be pure and wholesome.

CHEMICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WATER SUPPLY

(Results given in parts per million where appropriate)

Aston Tirrold Chelsey S. Moreton W. Hagbourne

Appearance	...	clear and bright	clear and bright	clear and bright	clear and bright
Colour (Hazen)	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Turbidity (Silica Scale)		Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Odour	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
pH value	...	7.2	7.0	7.3	7.0
Chlorides	...	13.3	22.5	18.2	12.5
Hardness as CaCO ₃					
Total	...	205	372	352	308
Carbonate	...	190	240	335	270
Non-Carbonate	...	15	132	17	38
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)		0.010	0.025	0.090	0.015
Nitrite Nitrogen (N)		Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Nitrate Nitrogen (N)		4.1	2.2	1.8	2.7
Iron (Fe)	...	less than 0.01	Nil	0.03	Nil
Other metals	...	Absent	Absent	Absent	Absent
Oxygen Absorbed					
4 hrs. at 27°C	...	0.05	0.15	0.65	0.10
Total Dissolved Solids (dried at 180°C)		245	485	550	375
Natural Fluoride (F)		less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1	less than 0.1

From the above analyses, the water would not be expected to be plumbo-solvent, and no tests for lead were carried out during the year.

No unusual instances of contamination of the supply occurred during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The extended Chelsey Sewage Disposal Works were brought into full operation during the latter part of 1963. A scheme for re-circulating the effluent is now being added for the purpose of making the works better able to cope with trade waste; this unit should be working by April, 1964.

Various new sewers have been laid to serve new housing development in various parts of the district; beyond this work generally has been very much of a routine nature.

REFUSE COLLECTION

STAFF: 1 Foreman and 10 men (1 man employed full time on tip control).

EQUIPMENT:

- 1 — 25 cubic yard Karrier (Petrol).*
- 1 — 25 cubic yard S & D (Diesel).
- 1 — 25 cubic yard Karrier (Diesel).
- 1 Bristol Duplex Tractor (Tip Control).

* Due for replacement in 1965.

COLLECTION: Kerbside collection once per week. A charge of £1 per week is made for additional service where refuse is collected from the back door.

DISPOSAL: By controlled tipping at Pearith Gravel Pits, Long Wittenham.

TRADE REFUSE: The Council now charges for the collection of trade refuse at the rate of 6d. per bin. A charge of 5/- per load is levied for the disposal of trade refuse at the tip.

SALVAGE: Salvage operations are confined to the recovery of rags, woollens, non-ferrous metals, cast iron and steel.

STREET CLEANSING

The employment of a pensioner for the removal of litter in the main shopping street in Didcot, has resulted in a marked improvement in the cleanliness of the street. This service is to be extended to other shopping areas in Didcot in 1964.

RODENT CONTROL

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN 1963.

		<i>Visits</i>	<i>Treatments</i>
Local Authority Premises	...	224	34
Dwelling Houses	... ..	480	354
Business Premises	... ..	101	82
Agricultural Properties	...	345	92
		<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	1150	562
		<hr/>	<hr/>

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The particulars are given below:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Owner</i>
The Cholsey Slaughterhouse, Ilges Lane, Cholsey.	The Cholsey Meat Supply Co. Ltd.
The Slaughterhouse, 5 Hagbourne Road, Didcot.	Messrs. H. Andrews & Sons.

Details of meat inspection carried out during the year are shown in the following table.

MEAT INSPECTION 1963

	Cows	Steers	Heifers	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Lambs
January	—	14	7	5	62	—	33
February	—	3	12	4	49	—	14
March	—	11	4	5	49	—	17
April	—	13	8	4	44	—	26
May	—	9	8	2	47	1	23
June	—	7	5	1	29	1	22
July	—	2	17	1	47	—	23
August	—	9	6	2	40	—	18
September	—	4	7	5	44	—	24
October	—	5	13	6	60	31	—
November	—	3	11	5	49	12	12
December	—	13	5	6	71	4	16
	—	93	103	46	591	49	228

Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses/ organs	—	—	—	4	—	—
%				0.67		

Cysticercosis Bovis

Whole carcasses	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses/ organs	2	—	—	—	—	—
%	1.02					

Diseases other than T.B. and Cysticercosis

<i>Bovis</i>	—	38	—	40	—	2
%		19.38	—	6.75	—	0.87

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

FRESH FOODS		<i>Weight</i>
Meat (various)		39 lbs.
Potatoes		112 lbs.
153 Poultry		523 lbs.
CANNED FOODS		
Fruit and Vegetables	1,281 cans	3,895 lbs.
Meat	104 cans	219 lbs.
Miscellaneous	14 cans	11 lbs.
Total		<hr/> 4,799 lbs. <hr/>

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK. All milk retailed in the district is designated. 14 samples of T.T. Pasteurised milk were taken during the year, all of which were satisfactory (7 of these samples were taken from schools).

Two complaints concerning milk were received during the year. One concerned taint in a bottle of sterilised milk. The milk was analysed at the Central Laboratories, Colindale. The report confirmed that the milk had been heated sufficiently to comply with legal requirements, and the taint was attributed to a faulty bottle cap.

The second complaint related to a dirty milk bottle from a producer/retailer with premises outside this district. The matter was referred to the Oxfordshire County Council for investigation.

ICE CREAM. One cafe is registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream, but no ice cream was manufactured on the premises during the year. There are 59 premises registered for the sale and storage of pre-packed ice cream.

Three samples of ice cream were taken from retailers during the year, and found to be satisfactory.

Two samples of ice cream were taken from a wholesale firm's cold store during the year and found to be unsatisfactory. The manufacture of the ice cream was traced to Barking, and the results were notified to the Public Health Department of the Barking Borough Council for investigation.

GENERAL. The following complaints concerning food offered for sale were dealt with during the year:

- (1) Complaint about a bag of decomposed potatoes. Taken up with the wholesaler concerned and presumably replaced.
- (2) Complaint about delivery of bread in Cholsey. Taken up with bakery, and instructions given to vanmen on use of trays, etc.
- (3) Complaint about mould in Coffee Torten Slice. Letter of warning to retailer.

STATISTICS

FOOD PREMISES IN THE DISTRICT

Food factories and warehouses	...	11
General grocery	... ..	41
Butchers	... ..	12
Chemists	... ..	5
Cafes	... ..	3
Public Houses	... ..	23
Travelling Food Vehicles	... ..	7
Greengrocers	... ..	5
Confectioners	... ..	7
Fish Shops	... ..	3
Hotels with Catering Licences	...	6
Bakeries	... ..	3

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Manufacturers of ice cream	...	1
Storage and sale of ice cream	...	59
Fish frying	... ..	2
Sausage Making	... ..	7
Bakehouses	... ..	3

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1963

				<i>Informal</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
General Defects	...	...	...	14	1
Drainage	...	...	...	4	2
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	4	—
Food Hygiene	...	...	...	1	—
Defective Paving	...	...	...	1	—
Blocked Drains	...	...	...	1	—
Farm Drainage	...	...	...	1	1
				—	—
			Total	26	4
				—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

There were no complaints concerning atmospheric pollution during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1963 there were no persons buried by the Local Authority under the provisions of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

PUBLIC BATHS

A new public swimming bath was opened in Edmonds Park, Didcot, during the early part of the year. There is also a swimming bath in the grounds of the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, which is open to the public during the summer months.

The following samples were taken during the year.

- 29.5.63. DIDCOT POOL.
Coliform bacilli 18+ per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (type I) 18+ per 100 ml.
- 12.6.63. SHILLINGFORD BRIDGE POOL.
Coliform bacilli — 0 per 100 ml.
Plate count — less than 1 per ml.
- DIDCOT POOL.
Coliform bacilli — 90 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli (type I) — 11 per 100 ml.
Plate count — greater than 500 per ml.
- 16.7.63. SHILLINGFORD BRIDGE POOL.
Coliform bacilli — more than 180 per 100 ml.
Bact. Coli (type I) — 160 per 100 ml.
- DIDCOT POOL.
Coliform bacilli — 0 per 100 ml.
Plate count — less than 1 per ml.
- 31.7.63. SHILLINGFORD BRIDGE POOL.
Coliform bacilli — 0 per 100 ml.
Plate count — 5 per ml.

HOUSING

During the year 1963, 22 cottages were represented as unfit for habitation.

The following building programmes are in progress at the present time:

DIDCOT — 34 houses for sale to existing tenants and applicants on the waiting list.

CHOLSEY — 26 cottage flats.

EAST HAGBOURNE — 6 bungalows, 32 cottage flats.

The number of applicants on the housing waiting list is approximately 617.

CARAVANS

The following caravan sites are operated in the Council's district:

SHILLINGFORD HILL CARAVAN SITE, BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL.

120 permanent sites, 40 holidays sites.

Standard is good but certain additional amenities are to be provided by 31.3.64.

BLAGRAVE FARM SITE, DIDCOT.

25 permanent sites. Standard satisfactory.

THREE POPLARS SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

32 permanent sites. Should be completed by 31.3.64.

HAGBOURNE ROAD SITE, DIDCOT.

100 permanent sites. Improvement work proceeding.

POST OFFICE SITE, CHOLSEY.

12 permanent sites. Should be completed by 31.3.64.

BARLEY MOW SITE, LONG WITTENHAM.

6 permanent sites, 40 holiday sites.

Plans have been submitted for the improvement of this site which should be carried out in 1964.

The following sites were closed during the year:

Brasenose Road Site, Didcot — 12 caravans.

Water Tower Site, Brasenose Road, Didcot — 4 caravans.

The following site will be closed in 1964:

Cross Road Site, Cholsey — 6 caravans.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	46	13	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	47	14	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Nil.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):

Making, etc. of wearing apparel	81
Finishing greetings cards	42
Total	123

WANTAGE RURAL DISTRICT

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION

MILK

All milk sold in the district was subject to the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations and licences, issued by the Berkshire County Council, in force during the year were as follows:

Pasteuriser	...	...	...	1
Dealers (pre-packed)	...	...	...	7

Routine sampling of milk from schools continued as follows:

Tuberculin tested milk	...	...	...	1
Pasteurised milk	...	...	...	23

In each case the methylene blue and phosphatase tests were satisfied.

During the year the milk bottling plant at Grove was dismantled and transferred to other premises outside the Wantage Rural District. The pasteurisation plant was retained, however, to treat milk being used in cartons and for milk products such as cream and yoghourt. 36 visits were made to the dairy during the year.

Two complaints were received of dirty bottles, but these were delivered from dairies situated in other districts. In each case the local Public Health Department was notified and the matter taken up with the proprietors.

CREAM

During the year 17 samples of pasteurised double cream from Elms Farm Dairy, Grove were taken and of these 12 failed to pass the methylene blue test. Detailed investigations were made and the presence in the cream of a certain aerobic spore forming bacillus (*Bacillus Cereus*) was discovered. This organism is capable of decolourising methylene blue dye very rapidly although it is non-pathogenic. It is largely heat resistant and, therefore, survives normal pasteurisation temperatures. Certain changes in the method of delivery of raw milk took place and towards the end of the year samples were again being reported as satisfactory.

Control over the production plant was exercised in three ways; firstly by regular sampling and inspections by this Department; secondly by monthly swab testing and other bacteriological methods by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on a contract basis; and thirdly by daily tests carried out by a laboratory technician employed by the proprietors themselves.

CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are 73 catering establishments in the district including 55 licensed premises, most of which provide snacks, some providing main meals.

Fifty-nine visits were made to these premises during the year and in the main they were found to be satisfactory. In nine instances improvements were carried out following recommendations from this Department.

SHOPS

There are 79 shops in the district and of these all but ten are food premises. 115 visits were made to these premises during the year and in most of them the standard of food hygiene was high. In seven instances requests were made for improvements, mainly concerning redecoration, and these were promptly met.

BAKEHOUSES

Four bakehouses continued to be used in the district during the year but two of these produced bread only and no confectionery. Each was inspected once during the year and in one case an earlier request for improvements to washing facilities had been complied with.

MOBILE FOOD TRADERS AND FRUIT STALLS

No new operators were discovered in the district during the year but inspections of the twelve known vehicles (excluding ice cream vendors) were made when the opportunity arose. In each case a fairly high standard was maintained. Where the vans operated from depots within the district these premises were also inspected.

Only two fruit stalls were found to be open in season and these were satisfactory.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

There are 50 registered ice cream premises in the district in addition to catering establishments most of which dispense pre-packed ice cream.

Seven samples of ice cream were taken during the year and the results were as follows:

Grade I	...	...	...	...	2
Grade II	...	...	...	...	3
Grade III/IV	...	...	...	...	2

The lower grade samples were all from one firm selling a pre-packed product on a national scale and investigations revealed that some temporary difficulties had been experienced with refrigerated delivery lorries. The matter was quickly rectified and subsequent samples proved satisfactory. The firm in question has since amalgamated with other companies.

In addition to the above, 30 samples were taken jointly with the Wantage U.D.C. from a depot in Wantage from which mobile ice cream vendors operate. Of these a number were below the required standard and detailed investigations were carried out. Further information on the matter will be found in the Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Wantage U.D.C.

Eleven ice lollies were also taken on a joint basis from the same depot and in one sample coliform organisms were isolated in very small numbers. All subsequent samples were bacteriologically satisfactory.

WATERCRESS

Cress beds in the area are situated at Letcombe Bassett, Ginge and Childrey. During the year the one grower producing cress on a commercial scale embarked on a trial scheme of hypochlorite dipping and early results showed that even heavily contaminated cress could be made safe by this method. Cress was bundled and packed into chips before immersion for one hour in a 50 p.p.m. solution of hypochlorite. It is hoped that a permanent treatment tank will now be installed.

Twelve samples of cress were taken during the year.

In spite of the above results a careful watch was kept on the cress beds and seven samples of water were taken. The bacteriological quality of the spring water feeding each bed was good but, at the outfall, coliform counts tended to vary considerably according to weather conditions thus emphasising the desirability of sterilising all cress before dispatch.

FOOD INSPECTION

The following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption:

156 lbs. canned meat.

Ten complaints concerning food were received and all were dealt with informally.

FOOD POISONING AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year 23 visits were made and 14 faecal specimens taken following notifications of various kinds of gastro-intestinal illnesses.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

One slaughterhouse and one knacker's yard were licensed in the district but the latter was used only rarely. Regular visits were made to the former for purposes of meat inspection and conditions were always found to be satisfactory. Complete redecoration of the slaughterhouse was carried out during the year.

On 1st October new Meat Regulations came into force. These made meat inspection compulsory and laid down a statutory procedure for examination of carcasses and offal. Provision was also made for meat passed as fit for human consumption to be stamped and for charges to be made by the Local Authority for the service.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	49	197	103	420	385
Number inspected	49	197	103	420	385
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	6	1	5	16
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	20	—	6	46
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticercosis	2	13.2	1	2.6	16.1
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	1	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	1	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—

The total weight of meat and offal condemned was 4,608 lbs.

SEWERAGE EFFLUENT

During the year one series of samples was taken from Elms Farm Dairy, Grove and the results showed that, in general, the effluent was satisfactory following the discontinuance of milk bottling at the plant but that periodic surges of cow shed effluent gave high readings for biochemical oxygen demand and solids in suspension. Unavoidable delays in moving livestock to other premises had, unfortunately, occurred but it is hoped that such a move will eventually provide a permanent solution to the problem.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Harwell Sewage Disposal Works was reconstructed and brought into operation and new sewers were laid in the village.

A small sewage disposal works was constructed at Goosey to serve the Council Houses and several properties in the village by private arrangement with the Council.

The Beedon Housing Sewage Disposal Works has been enlarged to accommodate the new houses and Old People's Bungalows being built there.

Work was commenced on new sewers and enlarging the Pumping Station at Grove and the Admiralty Sewage Disposal Works was purchased for treatment of Grove Sewage for an interim period until the joint works at Bradfield Grove have been enlarged.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have approved a sewerage scheme for the Parish of West Ilsley and also the Compton Flood Relief Sewer and Pumping Station and these works will be carried out during 1964.

REFUSE COLLECTION

4,975 tons of refuse were collected and disposed of at the Council's refuse tips at Farnborough, Hampstead Norris and Stanford during the year. Pearith gravel pits were also used on one day per week by arrangement with Wallingford R.D.C.

A weekly collection throughout the district was commenced in July, 1963 and the improved service was much appreciated by householders generally. A new scheme of bonus payment for employees was also introduced during the year.

One new Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft freighter was purchased in order to meet the increased amount of work to be undertaken.

The Brayloader received a major overhaul by the manufacturers and was used, almost exclusively, at Hampstead Norris following the closure of the refuse tip at Hermitage.

EQUIPMENT

- 3 Shelvoke & Drewry Fore & Aft Freighters.
- 1 Dennis 10 cubic yard Side Loader.
- 1 Brayloader.
- 1 Fordson Major Tractor.
- 1 Calfdozer (rarely used).

EMPLOYEES

- 4 Driver/Loaders.
- 4 Loaders.
- 1 Fitter/Tipman.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Regular emptying of Council owned sewage tanks and cesspools continued and in addition a considerable amount of private work was undertaken, the charges being £1 15s. 0d. per load and 17s. 6d. for subsequent loads taken on the same day. In a number of cases contracts were negotiated whereby tanks were emptied at least twice a year at a slightly reduced rate.

Number of emptyings of Council sewage tanks	58
Number of emptyings of Council cesspools	88
Number of emptyings of private tanks and cesspools	586
Income from emptying of private tanks, etc.	£1,351 9s. 0d.
Number of gallons of sewage pumped	992,050

One tanker, of approximately 800 gallons capacity, and driver was employed during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

All parishes continued to be supplied with mains water from four boreholes under the control of the Thames Valley Water Board. These boreholes are situated at Brightwalton, Churn Down, Blewbury, Childrey Warren and West Hendred and they are linked so that a deficiency in one can be augmented from another. All supplies are chlorinated. The fluoride content of the first three of these sources is less than 0.1 p.p.m. and that of the fourth source 0.3 p.p.m.

During the year 42 samples of mains water were taken for bacteriological examination and these were found to be highly satisfactory.

Forty-nine samples were also taken from private supplies, particularly those serving large estates, e.g. Lockinge/Ardington, South Fawley, Catmore and The Agricultural Research Council Field Station at Compton. These samples were taken from 18 different sources and in 10 cases the results were satisfactory.

In four cases the results showed evidence of considerable contamination and action was taken as follows:

Wells closed and mains water provided	2
Wells cleansed	2

In a further three cases results were reasonably good for unchlorinated rural supplies but not entirely satisfactory. Recommendations were made, however, and follow-up samples arranged.

The small Lockinge Estate supply at Ardington Wick which showed evidence of contamination over a long period was further improved during the year by the construction of a new reservoir. Subsequent samples gave better results but further checks will be necessary before the supply can be regarded as entirely satisfactory.

Parish	Acres	Population	No. of houses		Sewerage
			Council	Private	
Ardington	2693	372	—	129	Yes
East Challow	1657	707	90	161	Yes
West Challow	1070	187	16	40	Yes
Childrey	2929	452	42	113	Yes
Denchworth	1051	171	12	45	*
Goosey	946	122	6	34	
Grove	2513	2055	142	542	Yes
East Hanney	2200	628	44	149	Yes
West Hanney	1333	473	28	133	Yes
East Hendred	3198	1308	86	352	Yes
West Hendred	2002	333	29	75	*
Letcombe Regis	2155	525	42	115	Yes
Letcombe Bassett	1631	164	12	46	*
Lockinge	3763	268	—	95	Yes
Sparsholt	3329	279	30	71	*
Aldworth	1886	192	12	56	*
Beedon	2096	383	22	105	*
Blewbury	4246	1182	64	289	Yes
Brightwalton	2054	274	18	97	*
Catmore	710	42	—	16	
Chaddleworth	3400	414	46	105	*
Chilton	1448	687	44	190	Yes
Compton	3803	1050	74	260	Yes
Farnborough	1886	110	4	33	
Fawley	2190	143	5	45	*
Hampstead Norris	4479	690	52	181	*
Hermitage	1482	738	7	253	*
Harwell	2503	2405	90	536	Yes
East Ilsley	3017	444	40	101	Yes
West Ilsley	3037	272	8	89	
Peasemore	2049	172	12	57	*
Upton	1413	338	25	93	Yes
<hr/>					
	74159	17580	1102	4604	

* Small disposal works in existence for Council houses only.

The Thames Valley Water Board states that 122 new services were laid during the year, 4 main extensions were carried out and 8 further extensions are proposed for 1964.

FARMS

Nine inspections were made during the year under the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1956 and in five cases sanitary accommodation had been improved following earlier recommendations.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	181
Number of infestations	866

In addition, any infestations found at the A.E.R.E., Harwell and Grove, and also Council owned properties throughout the area were effectively dealt with.

AGRICULTURAL

Number of contracts	35
Value of contracts	£750

Treated at least once per month.

CARAVANS

Three large licensed sites continued in operation during the year. These were as follows:

Marshall's Caravan Service Ltd., Cane Lane, Grove:
90 caravans.

Chiltern Caravan Co., The Barrow, Harwell:
35 caravans.

Mr. H. S. Clargo, Ladycroft Caravan Park, Blewbury:
60 caravans.

Further improvements were carried out on these sites particularly in the field of fire prevention. One further permanent licence was issued to Mr. H. S. Clargo in respect of a caravan in Blewbury where existing use rights were claimed.

At the beginning of the year 18 temporary site licences were in force and subsequently three further licences were issued also on a purely temporary basis. The number of such licences was reduced by the end of the year to 12 by virtue of the licence condition prohibiting the re-occupation of vans and sites which became vacant.

The actual number of caravans in use in the district has, of course, remained high by reason of the exemption clauses contained in the 1960 Act, particularly those relating to contractors and persons requiring additional accommodation for members of the household.

Perhaps the most difficult problem was presented by itinerant caravan dwellers who normally move from place to place according to their work which often consists of scrap dealing and door to door sales. In particular the disused airfield at Grove continued to attract large numbers of these people and every effort was made to secure a permanent solution by informal means. However, at the end year proceedings were being instituted against the owner of part of the land for permitting the establishment of a caravan site without a licence.

The presence of caravan dwellers of this type in a village inevitably brings forth a storm of protest from permanent residents who rightly object to the unsightliness of the camps themselves and the rubbish which subsequently accumulates in large quantities. From the public health point of view the camps are most undesirable, there being no water supply or adequate sanitary accommodation and government legislation may be the only means of providing an answer to this urgent problem.

A total of 92 inspections were made during the year.

HOUSING

During 1963, particular emphasis was placed on housing work and in addition to routine inspections, following complaints, surveys were continued in the parishes of Harwell, Blewbury, East Hendred, Compton and Hampstead Norris. This work has resulted in an increase in the number of improvement schemes carried out and submitted for approval. Properties improved with the aid of Council Grants were as follows:

Discretionary Grants	45
Standard Grants	25

In all, 277 properties were inspected and 358 visits made. Of these properties, 135 were found to be unfit, to have sanitary defects or to be lacking in one or more of the modern amenities which have now come to be regarded as essential.

It was, of course, impossible to secure immediate improvements in all cases but in 76 instances informal approaches were made to owners with a view to achieving the required standards. Many of these were subsequently the subject of grant applications. In one instance it was necessary to serve a statutory notice for the provision of a watercloset, the work eventually being carried out by the Council in default.

In the remaining cases action had to be deferred mainly due to the lack of alternative accommodation for the occupants. However, 11 properties were dealt with under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 as being unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense and in six cases families were rehoused from such houses by the Council, as follows:

Ardington	1
Blewbury	2
Harwell	1
East Hendred	1
Lilley (Catmore)	1

As a result of the work carried out under the Housing Act referred to above and action taken in the previous year:

8 Demolition and Closing Orders were made;

2 formal undertakings to recondition were accepted;

5 houses were made fit following formal undertakings, and

13 houses were demolished in the parishes of:

Ardington	3
Compton	1
Goosey	2
Harwell	2
Letcombe Regis	1
Lilley (Catmore)	1
West Hanney	2
West Hendred	1

The selection of tenants for Council houses again formed an important part of the work of the Public Health Department during the year.

Although no new Council houses were completed and occupied, 17 transfers and 33 re-lettings were affected as follows:

Transfers at:

Compton	4
East Hendred	2
East Challow	4
Chaddleworth	1
East Hanney	1
Grove	3
Blewbury	1
Letcombe Regis	1

Re-lettings at:

Compton	2
East Hendred	2
East Challow	5
Chaddleworth	1
East Hanney	1
West Hanney	1
Grove	4
Blewbury	3
Letcombe Regis	1
Beedon	1
Farnborough	1
Sparsholt	1
Fawley	1
Harwell	5
Chilton	4

SUMMARY OF THE REMAINDER OF THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEATH DEPARTMENT

Number of complaints, of all kinds, received	...	...	117
DRAINAGE AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES			
Number of properties inspected	...	...	78
Number of inspections	...	...	137
Number of nuisances abated (excluding work by cesspool emptier)	...	...	23
Number of conservancy closets replaced by waterclosets (including improvement grant work)	...	...	60
OTHER NUISANCES			
Animals	Inspections	...	14
	Nuisances abated	...	2
Accumulations of refuse	Inspections	...	8
	Nuisances abated	...	8
Filthy Premises	Inspections	...	10
	Nuisances abated	...	2
Ditches and Streams	Inspections	...	34
	Nuisances abated	...	5
Smoke	Inspections	...	8
	Nuisances abated	...	3
Noise	Inspections	...	7
	Nuisances abated	...	2
The total number of different premises inspected by Public Health Inspectors was			848
The total number of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors was			1464

These figures do not include the work of the Pest Officer, Rodent Operator or Cleansing Staff which are dealt with under their respective headings.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1 — INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	16	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	8	—	—
Total	48	26	—	—

2 — CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences — 2 (Remedied).

PART VIII OF THE ACT

Outwork — No. of workers required by Section 133(1)(c):
Making, etc., of wearing apparel — 1.

